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19th District Legislators

OFFICE OF SENATOR BRIAN HATFIELD

P.O. Box 40419

Olympia, WA 98504-0419

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Priorities: What should we focus on in 2007?

Please send us a note on what you think should be our priorities for 2007.

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P.O. Box 40419

Olympia, WA 98504-0419

An  
Update  
to the  
19th  
District


From Your Legislators



Senator

Brian  
Hatfield


239 John A. Cherberg Building  
P.O. Box 40419  
Olympia, WA 98504-0419  
Phone: 360-786-7636  
**E-mail:**  
Hatfield.Brian@leg.wa.gov  
**Web:**  
www.sdc.wa.gov/hatfield.htm



Representative

Brian  
Blake

339 John L. O'Brien Building  
P.O. Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600  
Phone: 360-786-7870  
**E-mail:**  
Blake.Brian@leg.wa.gov  
**Web:**  
housedemocrats.wa.gov/  
members/blake



Representative

Dean  
Takko

323 John L. O'Brien Building  
P.O. Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600  
Phone: 360-786-7806  
**E-mail:**  
Takko.Dean@leg.wa.gov  
**Web:**  
housedemocrats.wa.gov/  
members/takko

February 2007


Dear Neighbors,

Another session of the state Legislature is under way, and we are honored to continue serving the people who live in Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Pacific and Grays Harbor counties.


During this session, we will support and sponsor legislation that directly enhances the quality of life in the 19th Legislative District, retains local jobs, helps our schools, and makes sure our farms and local businesses can thrive.

Please visit our Web sites for information on our work in Olympia, and let us know if you have any questions or ideas.


Sincerely,



Brian Hatfield



Brian Blake



Dean Takko

Toll-free Legislative Hotline: 1-800-562-6000 • TTY: 1-800-635-9993 • Legislative information on the Internet: www.leg.wa.gov

## Education

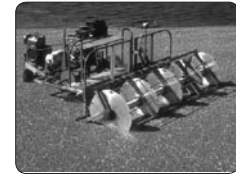
Students, good education and schools are a chief responsibility of state government. This year, we'll support local schools by:



- Making sure our kids are qualified for today's jobs by standardizing math education across the state and hiring 750 new math and science teachers.
- Making higher education a reality for more people by expanding Opportunity Grants to pay for education and job training that matches the needs of our economy.
- Investing in early learning to help Washington's young children enter their school years ready to learn and succeed.
- Giving voters the right to decide if their school levies and bonds must have 60 percent approval to pass rather than a simple 50 percent plus one vote majority.

## Agriculture, Timber and Fishing

Agriculture, forestry and fishing jobs are a big part of our communities and Washington's economy. This year, we'll work hard to make sure these industries stay viable while moving toward the future with biofuels and energy made from agriculture and forestry products. We will consider bills to:



- Support biofuels, an exciting and growing new industry for the district, through research and economic development grants.
- Improve the viability of farms, forests and fishing operations by reducing regulations, extending small farm direct marketing and exempting farmers from sales tax on biofuels and farm equipment repairs.

- Protect livestock, dairy and food safety.
- Preserve agriculture and forestry lands.

## Budget

As fellow citizens, we're concerned about how our state spends money. As your voice in Olympia, we will represent you in establishing budget priorities. Although we have a state budget surplus, much of that reserve is already committed:

- Education, from kindergarten to college, is the number one priority. We will push for smaller classes, equality for rural school districts and the best teachers for our kids.
- Health-care expenses continue to rise rapidly, a problem we need to get under control.
- Local governments still have serious unmet needs, particularly in criminal justice, roads, water and sewer, and public health.

The budget should invest in education improvements (especially math and science), economic development to create more family-wage jobs, health care for kids and prescription drug support for seniors.

We believe in fiscal responsibility, so a significant part of the surplus should be put in a "rainy day fund" for when we hit tougher economic times down the road.

## Local Investments for Southwest Washington



**Highway Improvements**—Safe and efficient highways keep our communities together. We have some goals for this year's transportation budget:

- Repairs to slide damage on Highways 101, 105, 107 and 4.
- Funding to repair and repave sections of major highways throughout

our area, including I-5, US-12 and US-101, and SRs 4, 6, 103, 105, 107, 401, 409, 432, 433, and 505.

- Installation of a cable median crossover barrier to enhance safety on Highway 12 between Montesano and Elma.

## Higher Education



A total of nearly \$30 million is being invested in upgrading institutions of higher learning in our area, including:

- **Grays Harbor College**—Main Campus - \$5.3 million in renovations to the vocational education building.
- **Grays Harbor College**—Ilwaco - \$350,000 for construction of a

building to increase access to higher education in south Pacific County, with general and science classrooms, an interactive television classroom, computer lab, offices, and a student resource center.

- **Lower Columbia College** - \$20.3 million for construction of the Instructional Fine Arts Building for drama and music programs.

## Other Community Investments

- **Reinforcing the eroding coast**—\$1.75 million in grants for communities suffering from coastal erosion in Grays Harbor County.
- **Wastewater & Sewer Treatment**—improvements to the wastewater treatment and sewer plants in Castle Rock, Westport, Ilwaco, South Bend, and the Chinook Water District.
- **Grays Harbor Paper Mill**—\$6 million for a new biomass turbine
- **Ilwaco Baker Bay**—\$237,960 for sewer improvements.

## Senator Brian Hatfield



### Bills for 2007:

- **Farm and forest lands protection:** I am sponsoring bills to protect farmers and foresters from excessive regulations, such as unnecessary buffers.
- **Finding missing persons:** I'm working with sheriffs and state police to improve the way we handle missing persons cases, and make other common-sense reforms for public safety.
- **Save money for community and technical college students:**

Climbing book costs slam community and technical college students, since many of them work while they study. I'm working on ways to lower those costs and give students more opportunities.

### Committees for 2007:

- Agriculture & Rural Economic Development (Vice-Chair)
- Financial Institutions & Insurance
- Ways & Means: The Senate's budget committee

## Representative Brian Blake



### Bills for 2007:

- **Farm land protection:** I'm working with Sen. Hatfield to protect farmers and farms from land restrictions and buffers that could drive them to sell their farms and lose a piece of our heritage.
- **Fairness for military men and women:** Our soldiers, sailors and other military personnel serve their

country overseas, and often can't make a deadline such as renewing a concealed weapons permit. I will push my bill to exempt our citizens in the service from an unfair penalty when they can't make that deadline.

- **Recognition for the Lady Washington:** I proposed honoring the Lady Washington, proudly made in Aberdeen, as the state ship.

### Committees for 2007:

- This year, I am serving as vice-chair of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, which covers forestry, agriculture, parks and other issues important to our area.
- I also sit on two budget committees: Capital Budget (the state's construction budget) and a sub-committee that develops the general government budget. This new Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government & Audit Review has a lengthy name, but it's crucial for making sure your tax money is used efficiently and carefully.

## Representative Dean Takko



### Bills for 2007:

- **Eluding police:** When car thieves and other criminals drive away from the police at break-neck speeds, they endanger police officers and other drivers. I wrote a bill that would toughen penalties for eluding the police.
- **Proof of insurance:** Most of us understand that auto insurance protects us in case of an

accident, but we all suffer when there's an uninsured person involved. I proposed that we require proof of insurance when people get or renew their vehicle license.

- **Tax relief for store owners hit by theft:** Under my proposal, retailers who lose merchandise from a robbery would receive a sales and use tax credit for what they lost, because victims of theft should not be hit with taxes on money they don't have.

### Committees for 2007:

- Local Government, where we consider city and county, property rights and growth management issues.
- Technology, Energy and Communications, covering issues such as biofuels, a new and crucial part of our local economy.
- Transportation, where I can make sure southwest Washington gets roads and improvements to keep folks safe and mobile.